

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:TJBURKE/WBCOOTE:CRJ

APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE

L/C:MR. KWIA TEK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053754

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, MOPS, ZA

SUBJECT: CROTHERS'CASE

REF: LUSAKA 439 AND 460

1. AF/E DIRECTOR TELEPHONED JOHN CROTHERS MARCH 18 AND CONVEYED SUBSTANCE LUSAKA 439 AND APPROPRIATE PORTIONS LUSAKA 460. YOUR PROPOSAL LATTER TELEGRAM MOST INTRIGUING AND FULLY SUPPORTED BY DEPT.

2. IN TELECON DIRECTOR STRESSED AMBASSADOR'S BELIEF THAT VIGOROUS APPROACH TO MWAANGA, USING DOLS 40,000 FIGURE GAVE FAIR PROMISE BUT NOT REPEAT NOT ASSURANCE THAT GRZ WOULD IMPROVE DOLS 10,000 OFFER. WE SENSED THERE MIGHT BE SOME ROOM FOR MANEUVER, BUT HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE GRZ WOULD ACCEPT OUR SPECIFIC FIGURE ANY MORE THAN WE WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT THEIRS. HE ALSO TOLD CROTHERS THAT DEPARTMENT WAS IN NO SENSE ATTEMPTING TO FORCE AN IMMEDIATE DECISION FROM HIM BECAUSE OF SCHEDULED MARCH 19 MEETING, BUT SINCE HE HAS BEEN GIVING MATTER CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT FOR SOME TIME, HE MIGHT BE IN POSITION TO GIVE US PROMPT RESPONSE. IF CROTHERS WANTED MORE TIME TO REFLECT UPON NEW DEVELOPMENTS, HOWEVER, WE WOULD ADVISE AMBASSADOR.

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3. CROTHERS REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVING MUCH THOUGHT TO PROBLEM AND HAD TALKED TO SEVERAL PEOPLE ABOUT

WHAT A REASONABLE FIGURE MIGHT BE. HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT THIS NOT EASY TO DETERMINE. WHILE HE FOUND DOLS 10,000 OFFER UNACCEPTABLE, HE BELIEVED THAT, ON BALANCE, APPROACH SUGGESTED BY AMBASSADOR WAS BEST COURSE TO PURSUE. CONSEQUENTLY, HE AGREED TO YOUR PROPOSING DOLS 40,000 FIGURE TO GRZ. AF/E DIRECTOR REASSURED CROTHERS THAT DEPT WOULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING WITH HIM.

4. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION CROTHERS WENT OVER SAME GROUND HE HAS COVERED BEFORE, I.E., HIS BELIEF THAT COMPENSATION DUE HIM AND WIFE AS MUCH OR MORE BECAUSE OF INDIGNITY HIS TREATMENT, ZAMBIAN WHITEWASH, ETC. RATHER THAN FOR ACTUAL WOUNDING. NEVERTHELESS AF/E DIRECTOR HAD DISTINCT IMPRESSION CROTHERS FELT DEPT AND EMBASSY WERE WORKING IN BEST INTERESTS HIMSELF AND WIFE.

5. CROTHERS VOLUNTEERED INFORMATION THAT DRIJBER HAD BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIM. ACCORDING TO CROTHERS, DRIJBER STATES THAT HE HAS NOT ACCEPTED GRZ EX GRATIA PAYMENT AND THAT FUNDS BEING HELD IN TRUST BY GOC. DRIJBER CHARACTERIZED DOLS 50,000 SETTLEMENT AS "TOKEN" AND DOES NOT CONSIDER CASE SETTLED. HE STILL CRITICAL OF GOC FOR WANTING TO CLOSE CASE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. DRIJBER APPARENTLY NOT SO INCLINED. DRIJBER ALSO HAS ENCOURAGED CROTHERS NOT TO ACCEPT ANY EX GRATIA PAYMENT TO CANADIAN FAMILIES AS PRECEDENT. (CROTHERS DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER DRIJBER APPROACH ACCEPTABLE TO HIM BUT DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT UNLIKELY HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT APPROPRIATE GRZ OFFER.)

6. IN EVENT FOREIGN MINISTER DOES NOT RAISE CROTHERS CASE DURING MARCH 19 MEETING, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT UNLESS CIRCUMSTANCES CLEARLY INAPPROPRIATE AMBASSADOR SHOULD TAKE INITIATIVE TO BRING IT TO MWAANGA'S ATTENTION IN HOPE THAT VIGOROUS PRESENTATION UTILIZING DOLS 40,000 FIGURE MIGHT BE PRODUCTIVE. KISSINGER
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